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Message Text

PAGE 01 NEW DE 14407 081635Z

42/51
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W
---------- 076426
O 081155Z DEC 73C
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8351

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 14407

STADIS//////////////////////////////

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARAGRAPH FOUR)

FOR LAINGEN AND MOYNIHAN FROM SCHNEIDER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, IN
SUBJECT: RUPEES

1. THANKS TO YOUR DECISION TO CUT BACK DRASTICALLY ON THE PL 480 RUPEES NEEDED FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, WE BELIEVE WE NOW HAVE A FINAL AGREEMENT IN HAND. KRISHNA-SWAMI WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED WITH OUR OFFER TO REDUCE OUR REQUIREMENT TO 194 CRORES OF RUPEES WHEN PETER AND THE RUPEE TEAM MET WITH HIM THIS MORNING. THE FINANCE MINISTRY STILL HAS PROBLEMS WITH OUR CONCEPT BUT NOT THAT IT IS ABLE TO SAY THAT THE MATTER WAS THOROUGHLY EXAMINED AND AS A RESULT A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN THE AMOUNT WAS MADE, IT FEELS CONFIDENT IN RECOMMENDING APPROVAL TO THE CABINET. FURTHERMORE, OUR COMPROMISE CONFIRMS OUR DESIRE TO REACH A GENEROUS SETTLEMENT, THE SIGNIFICANCE OF WHICH GOES FAR BEYOND ITS ECONOMIC CONTENTS.

2. FOR THEIR PART, THE INDIANS WILL BE GIVING US A NUMBER OF ADDED BENEFITS. THEY WILL OMIT MENTION OF CONSULTATION IN REGARD TO CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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ORGANIZATIONS. THEY HAVE AGREED TO A LETTER COMMITTING THEM TO REACH A SETTLEMENT ON SURPLUS PROPERTY PRIOR TO MARCH 1. AND FINALLY, THEY WILL GIVE US A LETTER AGREEING TO START UP AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ONCE AGAIN

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WHEN THE AGREEMENT TAKES EFFECT.

3. KRISHNASWAMI HAS ASKED THAT THE INITIALING BE DELAYED UNTIL WEDNESDAY--THE CABINET IS SCHEDULED TO CONSIDER IT MONDAY EVENING AND THE GOI NEEDS THE INTERVENING TIME TO GET ORGANIZED FOR THE INITIALING. WE HAVE AGREED--WE CAN USE THE TIME TOO.

4. THE INDIANS CONSIDER THAT THEY MUST PLACE THE FULL TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT BEFORE THE PARLIAMENT BEFORE THEY CAN BRIEF THE PRESS ON IT. THIS MEANS THAT, CONTRARY TO OUR INITIAL PLAN, THE FULL TEXT WILL BECOME A PUBLIC DOCUMENT NEXT WEDNESDAY MORNING AT 11:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME. SINCE WE MUST BRIEF THE PRESS OURSELVES, AND WE COULD NOT EXPECT TO DO SO UNLESS THE INDIANS ALSO COULD, WE CAN SEE NO BASIS FOR OUR OBJECTING TO RELEASE OF THE TEXT. WE ARE MAKING IT EXPLICITLY CLEAR IN EVERY PUBLIC DOCUMENT THAT THE AGREEMENT MUST BE PLACED BEFORE THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES BEFORE IT TAKES EFFECT.

5. I KNOW THE WEEK HAS BEEN A DIFFICULT ONE THERE--AS IT HAS HERE. BUT THE PRODUCT HAS BEEN WORTH ALL OF THE EFFORT. WE HAVE SURMOUNTED OUR LAST MINUTE PROBLEMS AND THE PROSPECTS ARE EXCELLENT THAT WE WILL HAVE COMPLETED THE FIRST STAGE OF THE AGREEMENT NEXT WEEK.
SCHNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

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